

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-43 (Cancelled)

44. (New) A method comprising:

adding a first gas to an enclosure having a second gas through a plurality of inlet ports of a vent, the first gas having a different composition than the second gas, the enclosure being between a mask protective device, a patterned mask, and walls connecting the mask protective device with the patterned mask; and

removing at least a portion of the second gas from the enclosure through one or more outlet ports of the vent.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said adding comprises adding the first gas through a plurality of inlet ports on a same side of the enclosure.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said adding comprises adding the first gas through a slit.

47. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said adding comprises adding the first gas through an inlet port that is smaller than an outlet port.

48. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said removing comprises removing the second gas by vacuum.

49. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said adding comprises adding the first gas through at least five inlet ports.

50. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said adding comprises adding the first gas through a plurality of inlet ports arranged to encourage plug flow through the enclosure.
51. (New) A method comprising:
- adding a first gas to an enclosure having a second gas through an inlet port having a shape to distribute a flow of the first gas over a length of a side of the enclosure, the first gas having a different composition than the second gas, the enclosure being between a mask protective device, a patterned mask, and walls connecting the mask protective device with the patterned mask; and
- removing at least a portion of the second gas from the enclosure through one or more outlet ports.
52. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the inlet port comprises a slit in a wall.
53. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said adding comprises adding the first gas through a plurality of inlet ports.
54. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said removing comprises removing the second gas by vacuum.
55. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said adding comprises adding the first gas through an inlet port that is smaller than an outlet port.
56. (New) A method comprising:
- placing an apparatus in a chamber having a first gas, the apparatus including a patterned mask, a mask protective device, walls connecting the patterned mask with the mask protective device, an enclosure between the patterned mask, the

mask protective device, and the walls, a second gas in the enclosure, and a vent in the walls;

removing at least a portion of the second gas from the enclosure to the chamber by diffusion through the vent; and

adding at least a portion of the first gas from the chamber to the enclosure by diffusion through the vent.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, further comprising heating the second gas in the enclosure to increase a diffusion coefficient.

58. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein said removing comprises removing the second gas through one or more slits of the vent.

59. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein said removing comprises removing the second gas through a plurality of ports of the vent.

60. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein said removing comprises creating a vacuum in the enclosure.

61. (New) A method comprising:

placing an apparatus in a chamber, the apparatus including a patterned mask, a mask protective device, walls connecting the patterned mask with the mask protective device, an enclosure between the patterned mask, the mask protective device, and the walls, an initial gas in the enclosure, and a vent in the walls;

removing at least a portion of the initial gas from the enclosure through the vent by creating a vacuum in the chamber;

adding a gas having a different composition than the initial gas to the chamber;
and

adding at least a portion of the gas having the different composition from the
chamber to the enclosure through the vent.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein said removing comprises removing the
initial gas through one or more slits of the vent.
63. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein said removing comprises removing the
initial gas through a plurality of ports of the vent.